

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
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O R 211511Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1382
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2364

DEPT. FOR NEA; USIA FOR INA, JERUSALEM FOR ATHERTON PARTY.

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L.)
SUBJECT: ATHERTON'S REMARKS TO PRESS AFTER MEETING WITH FONMIN
DAYAN TUESDAY, FEB 21, 1978.

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REMARKS TO PRESS BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF STATE ATHERTON AFTER MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN
IN JERUSALEM, TUESDAY, FEB. 21, 1978, AT 12:30 P.M. ISRAELI
TIME.

Q: MR. ATHERTON, COULD YOU SUM UP YOUR MEETING?
A: WELL, YES I'D BE HAPPY TO. I TALKED WITH THE MINISTER.
WE REVIEWED THE STATUS OF THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WHICH,
AS I SAID YESTERDAY, WAS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR MY
RETURNING TO CONTINUE WORKING ON THE DECLARATION. I WILL BE
GOING TO CAIRO TOMORROW TO CONTINUE THIS PROCESS AND RETURNING
HERE AT SOME POINT AFTER THAT, SO THAT THIS IS GOING
TO BE A CONTINUING PROCESS OF DISCUSSION. I WILL,
INCIDENTALLY, HAVE THE HONOR OF MEETING WITH THE PRIME
MINISTER THIS AFTERNOON AT 6:00 AT HIS OFFICE IN THE
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KNESSET.
Q: WHAT THEN ARE THE PROSPECTS OF ACHIEVING SUCH AN
AGREEMENT?
A: WE'RE WORKING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE
TO ACHIEVE A DECLARATION. THAT IS THE PURPOSE FOR WHAT
WE HAVE SET OUT TO DO AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARDS
THAT END.

Q: ARE YOU GOING TO CAIRO WITH ANY NEW ISRAELI FORMULATIONS OR ANY NEW ISRAELI IDEAS?

A: I THINK IT PROBABLY ISN'T USEFUL FOR ME TO TRY TO DESCRIBE AFTER EACH OF THESE DISCUSSIONS PRECISELY WHERE WE ARE AND WHO HAS PROPOSED WHAT TO WHOM. THERE IS GOING TO BE A SERIES OF MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS OVER A NUMBER OF DAYS AND PERHAPS A WEEK OR MORE. IT WULD BE BETTER,PERHAPS, NOT TO BEGIN TO TRY TO DESCRIBE THE STATUS OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS AFTER EVERY MEETING. IT'S A CONTINUING PROCESS.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY EGYPTIAN ANSWER TO ISRAEL'S PREVIOUS PROPOSALS?

A: AS I SAID THIS IS A CONTINUING PROCESS, AND I WOULD MUCH PREFER NOT TO TRY TO DESCRIBE AFTER EACH MEETING WHAT HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY WHOM TO WHOM.
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